

From JOHN HAMILTON

P. Hamilton,

John

WASHINGTON, Wed. — I asked the head of the Central Intelligence Agency today whether missing double agent Nicholas George Shadrin was alive in Australia.



Admiral Turner ... heads would roll ...



Ewa Shadrin ... agents wife.

Admiral Stansfield Turner told me: "I do not know if he is still alive ... I wish I did."

I had just confronted the director of the CIA with Shadrin's wife, Mrs. Ewa Shadrin, at a luncheon at Washington's National Press club. Mrs. Shadrin came to the luncheon as my guest.

Her husband mysteriously disappeared in Vienna on December 29, 1975, when he went to meet two agents of the Soviet KGB.

In a series of articles in August this year The Herald told of an Australian connection — a man called William Joseph Flynn, also known as "Goldfinger" — who is now in jail in England awaiting trial on charges of having dishonestly obtained \$1250 from Mrs. Shadrin by claiming to know the whereabouts of her husband.

Shadrin, a Soviet naval officer, defected to the West in 1959 and subsequently worked for several U.S. security and intelligence organisations.

I asked Admiral Turner if he knew the present whereabouts of Shadrin and if reports published in Australia that Shadrin could be living in Australia under CIA and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation protection were true.

Mrs. Shadrin also asked if her husband was in CIA "custody."

Admiral Turner, 54, replied:

"No. He is not in CIA custody. I do not know if he is still alive. I do not know if he is in Australia."

### 'INTERESTED'

"I have put a good amount of time into the Shadrin case in my tenure in this job and I can find no evidence of foul play on the part of any American authority nor do I have any conclusive evidence or just good clues as to where Shadrin is."

"I wish I did," he said. Admiral Turner, who became head of the CIA

19 months ago, told Mrs. Shadrin:

"I feel bad that it looks like I've been trying to avoid you — I am just as sincerely interested in your problems today as I ever have been."

"I can tell you that I've really made some efforts in the last several months with this government ..."

Admiral Turner told Mrs. Shadrin that he would roll out there "that heads would roll all over the place" if he found out that the CIA was doing anything improper with her husband.

He assured Mrs. Shadrin that he would see her again.

The Shadrin case is at present being investigated by President Carter's Intelligence Oversight Board.

### ASSURANCE

Mrs. Shadrin and her lawyer, Richard Copaker, had been trying in vain to see Admiral Turner and ask him about reports that Shadrin was alive and in Australia.

Admiral Turner, who had spoken to the press club on "protecting secrets in a free society," also gave me "full assurance" the CIA was not "in any way" trying to influence Australian politics or union activities.

In 1977 the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence asked the CIA for a report on its activities in Australia.

Asked if that report would ever be made public, Admiral Turner said:

"I hope that the CIA report to the senate committee will not be made public, because I think there is classified information in it."

"It is up to the Congress to decide whether the report should be released," he said.

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